

MINUTES FOR THE April 9, 2015, BOARD MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS FOR THE CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, MOORHEAD, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Krabbenhoft at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Paul Krabbenhoft, Chairperson
 Joel Hildebrandt, Vice-Chairperson
 Carol Schoff, Treasurer
 Randy Schellack, Secretary
 Steve Dalen, Reporter arrived at 4:15
 Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager
 Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator
 Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician
 Sharon Lean, District Conservationist arrived at 4:18 left at 5:08
 Tony Nelson, PF Biologist

 Absent: Craig Halverson, District Technician, CFO
 Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA: M/S/P, Schoff/Schellack, to approve the April agenda, Motion carried.

THE MEETING AND MILEAGE FORMS WERE COMPLETED BY THE SUPERVISORS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A draft copy of the March 12, 2015 minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the April meeting. **M/S/P, Schoff/Dalen, to approve the March 12, 2015, minutes,** Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Carol discussed financials. Kevin stated that the budget will be different for matting due to the shortage this year.

M/S/P, Schellack/Hildebrandt, to approve the March 31, 2015, Treasurer's report, Motion carried

APPROVE STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT FOR ASSISTANCE: The following landowners have signed cost-share contracts requesting cost-share assistance:

Contract CS 15-09: T. PenderField WindbreakC/S not to exceed \$852.00
Contract CS 15-11: H. Pender.....Field WindbreakC/S not to exceed \$1255.00
Contract CS 15-10: J. Underdahl.....Field WindbreakC/S not to exceed \$969.00
M/S/P, Dalen/Schellack, to approve these above mentioned contracts, Motion carried.

Contract CS 15-12: D. SchneidermannSide Water InletC/S not to exceed \$3880.00
M/S/P, Schoff/Hildebrandt, to approve the above mentioned contract, Motion carried.

APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID: The list of vouchers from check 15427 - 15435 and 18520-18543 was reviewed and the approval was given to have been paid by the due date.

M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to approve the vouchers that had been paid as listed, Motion carried.

.....Sharon arrived at 4:18

NRCS ITEMS: See attached copy of Sharon's report.

OFFICE LEASE: Paul stated that we need to look at acting on the lease issue. We need to either look at moving or taking over a portion of the building. If the district would decide to stay there would be a need, possibly, to add on or USDA may choose to look for space elsewhere. Following a request from FSA to sublease from NRCS, the SWCD Board voted to not sublease from NRCS.

.....Sharon left 5:08

BUFFER INITIATIVE:

AREA 1 MEETING: Discussed the presentation that Grant SWCD gave, also discussed the fact that we should move into the buffer initiative with some thought. Might possibly be a new position along with new programs for the initiative. Next Area 1 meeting will be held the last week in June at the McCollum game farm near Bejou MN. Paul stated that they discussed the power point given at the Area 1 meeting and how Grant SWCD started their buffer initiative. Paul said he liked the way that W. Ottertail SWCD went about pursuing their buffer initiative.

PHASE XV FARM BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Kevin stated that there is discussion happening for this grant program to possibly pay 90 percent towards a full- time position with the other 10 percent coming from local entities. We discussed applying for this full-time position to fund Tony's position. The board decided to apply for this grant before the May 11th deadline.

M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schoff, to approve submitting the full-time application. Motion Carried

BWSR GRANTS VERIFICATION AUDIT: Kevin stated that BWSR employees; Pete Waller, Brett Arne, Jeanette Austin, and Brian Dwight were here on Mar. 30 to do our grant's verification audit. Kevin stated that we will need to get a few things sent out to Jeanette that she asked for, but for the most part we had everything ready for her. Overall everything went well.

BECKER/CLAY SWCD CWF JOINT PROJECT: Will try to have a joint meeting, might have to wait until after tree planting.

WOLVERTON CREEK/COMSTOCK COULEE PROJECT: The meeting was held at BRRWD. Kevin told us who attended the meeting, and said that most of the work will be done in Wilkin County.

COUNTY SPRAYER (WEED CONTROL) CONTRACT -2015 SELECTION: Kevin stated that he sent out request for bids to L&M Road Services, and DiAngelo Bros, from Albert Lea, MN. L&M Road Services submitted a bid where all prices were the same, except Tordon had an increase from \$65.00- \$72.00/gal. There was an increase in the county budget from \$16,000-\$18,000 for 2015. The decision was made that Kevin will meet with Leo and plan the areas to spray. **M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schellack, to approve contract with Leo Splonskowski, L&M Road Services.** Motion carried.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLANS: There was a meeting held March 30th. Lynn stated that Georgetown is progressing well. There will be another meeting on May 5.

LLCC SUMMER CAMP SPONSORSHIP: Follow up with 4H to see if there is any interest from the kids.

WRP MONITORING FOLLOW-UP: Discussed at our last meeting when Sharon told us that WRP monitoring will be given to Ducks Unlimited because of inconsistency and violations not being reported. Kevin called MASWCD's Stefanie Martinez to ask her about this, she stated "that she was not aware of this". She asked NRCS about this, and found out that Ducks Unlimited is doing the work "in-kind", so no money will come from NRCS. Kevin stated that Stefanie said "99 percent of SWCD's did the job satisfactorily."

SWCD BOARD/FSA COMMITTEE MEETING: Kevin stated that James has not gotten back to him so he is assuming that they are not interested in a meeting.

2015 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST: Randy stated there is no candidate yet.

EARTH DAY: We were asked to have a booth at the Earth Day event to be held on April 22, outside, at MSUM. Tony will be manning the booth from 11-3 p.m.

NACDE MEETING: Kevin stated they will likely be tree planting. Mandy will attend.

REPORTS:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: No report

CFO PROGRAM: Kevin stated that Craig attended a meeting with Bryan Green, Clay County Emergency Management Director, and GIS Department Personnel about the Avian Flu outbreaks statewide. A plan was made as to what would happen if it was found in Clay County.

TREE PROGRAM: Kevin stated that the trees showed up yesterday, April 8. Most hand plant orders were bundled today April, 9th. There was 22,500 ordered and 19,449 have sold.

NO-TILL DRILL: Kevin stated that the drill season will start tomorrow April, 10th.

CAI UPDATE: Kevin stated that the MACAI State conference will be held on July 13, 14, and 15 at Thumper Pond. Two staff members will attend.

CCATO MEETING: Tony stated that Joseph Stegmaier from MN DOT and Anthony Cortilet from MDA were there. They gave presentations and answered questions. Tony stated that there was a “weed sample” table there for Town Board Officials to look at. Discussed who was there.

LWM/WCA: See attached report.

TSA UPDATE: No meeting/report.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Paul stated that there were no issues with the permit request from Baer’s for their barn expansion.

RRBFDRWG ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Discussed the Governor’s buffer strip initiative and water quality certification programs. Discussed the need for more clarity in the drainage law, and the lawsuit in Des Moines.

PF UPDATE: Tony stated that Tim Thompson’s seed plan for RIM was sent to him requesting he make a decision. Bob Thompson’s easement was recorded, the final title insurance policy was sent back to BWSR. Dave Herbranson’s RIM easement agreement was signed and sent to BWSR, it was sent back to Tony, and will be requesting title insurance. There is still no change with Steve Thompson. The annual Pheasants Forever banquet was held on March 21st, attendance was good.

UPCOMING EVENTS: April 14, NACDE meeting, April 15-17, Tree pick up scheduled, April 22, Earth Day.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS: None

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 14, 2015 - - - 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Supervisor Krabbenhoft called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **M/S/P, Schellack/Schoff, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.,** Motion carried.

BY: Amanda Lewis
District Coordinator

Randy Schellack
Secretary

Signature after approved Date

NRCS DC Report
April 9, 2015
For Clay SWCD Board Meeting

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

I have received another application for EQIP – RRBI (Red River Basin Initiative). This application is for Cover Crops on 800 acres.

NRCS is now working on EQIP signup 2. I have three applications in this signup and State Office will include unfunded applications from the first signup.

The timeline for this signup period are:

- April 24 – AERT Ranking Deadline
- April 27 – Quality Assurance Review (QAR) List Provided
- May 8 – Technical QAR Deadline
- May 11 – Pre-Approvals Made
- May 22 – Contract Obligation Deadline

All other applications for Moorhead are in Signups 3 and 4.

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

CSP deadline to complete work has changed. Dates are extended to:

May 15 – Application evaluations completed – resource inventory complete in the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT), CMT submitted and payment rate determined.

May 18 – List of preapproved application sent to Area Office from the State Office and distribution of Field Offices. Applications to be set to preapproved once list is received.

June 19 – Complete onsite field verification and develop stewardship plan

June 30 – All contract obligated. Area Program Specialist to send obligation report to CSP Manager upon completion.

I have completed 12 CSP interviews which took 1 ½ hours to 3 hours. I have one interview on Friday and this completes all interviews. I will begin entering information for all CSP applications into CMT.

Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners

Reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners – checklist prepared by NRCS Civil Rights Division with the SWCD Board. This review is required every year. This allows the District to work with NRCS Programs and this includes being on the network system.

Other items

On May 17, 2015, Cathee Pullman will commence serving as the New NRCS State Conservationist in Minnesota for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Cathee Pullman began her career with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Soil Conservation Service, now named the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in 1987. She has worked across the country partnering with private land owners helping them to protect their natural resources in Oklahoma, Colorado, Iowa, Georgia, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, the National Headquarters Office and now Minnesota. Throughout the course of her career, Pullman has served at all levels of the agency and in multiple capacities including Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, Area Conservationist, State Administrative Officer, Management Analyst and State Resource Conservationist.

Pullman provided additional assistance and expertise to NRCS in her 28 year career by serving on several national teams, participating in six national pilots and completing multiple detail assignments. Most recently, she served as the Acting State Conservationist for Maine NRCS for 9 months. As the Minnesota State Conservationist, Pullman looks forward to establishing relationships with conservation partners, private landowners and organizations as well as facilitating technical support to field office staffs and providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and operators in Minnesota.

Pullman is a native of Illinois. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Ranch/Farm Management from Oklahoma State University in 1984.

Pullman has three children attending college. She enjoys snow skiing, kayaking and traveling.

Sharon Lean
District Conservationist
USDA NRCS